

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 04/17/2013

GAIN Report Number: CA13019

Canada

Post: Ottawa

This Week in Canadian Agriculture - Issue 7

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Robin Gray

Prepared By:

Mihai Lupescu

Report Highlights:

Two Additional Provinces Sign On *Growing Forward 2* * Asian Long-Horned Beetle Eradicated from Canada * Roundup Ready Alfalfa Will Not Be Available in Canada * Government Praises New Process for Natural Health Products * Canada and Costa Rica Sign Organic Food Arrangement

This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

If you wish to have this publication sent directly to your inbox, or if you are subscribed and would like to unsubscribe, please send an email to agottawa@fas.usda.gov.

Disclaimer: Any press article summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

Two Additional Provinces Sign On *Growing Forward 2*

British Columbia (B.C.) and Saskatchewan are the third and fourth provinces, respectively, to sign on Canada's new farm bill, *Growing Forward 2* (after Alberta and Ontario). News articles report that B.C. gets a budget of C\$105 million out of the total C\$2 billion pledged by Ottawa to all provinces and territories. The allotted budget must be used between now and the end of March 2018 for agriculture sector programs. These funds are apart from business risk management (BRM) allocations. The B.C. government said its non-BRM funds will go to support the agri-food sectors in three areas: *innovation* (C\$27 million), *competitiveness and market development* (C\$55 million), and *adaptability and industry capacity* (C\$23 million).

Reportedly, Saskatchewan will receive C\$388 million to put toward programs other than business risk management (BRM) over the next five years. The provincial government indicated that it would split the funding over eight key programming areas which include: C\$170 million toward *agriculture innovation, research and technology transfer*; C\$65 million for *rural water infrastructure*; C\$60 million divided between *environment programs* and *food safety, plant and animal health programs*; C\$32 million divided between *trade and market development* programs and *"value-added business development"*; C\$25 million for *farm business management* programs; and C\$4 million for *agriculture awareness initiatives*.

To read the full articles, please follow these links: [British Columbia](#) and [Saskatchewan](#) .

Asian Long-Horned Beetle Eradicated from Canada

In a recent [press release](#), the federal government announced that the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB) has been successfully eradicated from Canada, following nearly a decade of collaborative efforts between federal, provincial and municipal authorities. The [Asian Long-horned Beetle](#) is not native to Canada and was first detected in the cities of Vaughan and Toronto (both in Ontario) in 2003. Following the detection, a Ministerial Order – the *Asian Long-horned Beetle Infested Place Order* – was adopted

to regulate the areas around the southern part of the City of Vaughan and the north east part of the City of Toronto in order to prevent further spread. As part of the eradication effort, nearly 30,000 trees were also removed from the area. The ALHB was last detected inside the regulated area in December 2007. It has never been detected elsewhere in Canada. With the announcement, the federal government also repealed the *Asian Long-horned Beetle Infested Place Order*.

Roundup Ready Alfalfa Will Not Be Available in Canada

According to a news article, Forage Genetics International (FGI), the developer of Genuity Roundup Ready alfalfa, won't be launching its product in Canada for planting this spring. The Idaho-based forage seed developer's decision comes after months of "interest and speculation" about its commercialization plans for the Canadian market, after RR alfalfa returned to the U.S. market last year. At a series of rallies in Ontario and across Canada, the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) and the National Farmers Union-Ontario (NFU-O), among others, including the federal official opposition New Democrats (NDP), called for a moratorium on the RR crop's release. These opponents contend that the release of RR alfalfa, an insect-pollinated crop, could lead to their unwanted spread in Canada's conventional and/or organic alfalfa crops, and damage exports to international markets wary of genetically-modified products. The groups have also contended that the release of another Roundup Ready crop could possibly accelerate the development of glyphosate resistance in weeds. The Canadian federal government granted the glyphosate-tolerant alfalfa full food, feed and environmental approvals back in 2005. Here you can read the [full story](#) and one more [related story](#).

Government Praises New Process for Natural Health Products

In a recent [press release](#), the federal government highlighted the ongoing success of Health Canada's more efficient approach to natural health products (NHPs), with more than 60,000 products authorized to date. Under the [new approach](#), the measures in place to protect consumer safety stay the same, and products continue to be labeled with important information to help consumers make informed choices. The new approach played a key role in clearing the backlog of more than 10,000 natural health product applications and has created a predictable regulatory environment for the review of these products. Health Canada will continue to work with the natural health products industry to ensure all NHPs sold in Canada have natural product numbers (NPNs). Products bearing NPNs have been authorized by Health Canada and are safe and effective when used according to the instructions on the label. The new approach is in keeping with the *Natural Health Products Regulations*, which have been in place since 2004 and continue to set the standard and requirements for authorizing NHPs in Canada.

Canada and Costa Rica Sign Organic Food Arrangement

In a recent release, the federal government announced that an [arrangement](#) was reached between Canada and Costa Rica covering organic products. This arrangement will allow for an easier import and export of certified organic products between Canada and Costa Rica, without the need for additional certification, thus reducing costs and red tape for industry. The Canada–Costa Rica Organic Equivalency Arrangement is the outcome of an extensive analysis of both countries' production and certification systems. "This arrangement with Costa Rica eliminates trade barriers to give Canadian organic producers a competitive edge in the Costa Rican organic market," said Agriculture Minister

Gerry Ritz. "Canadian consumers will also benefit by having increased access to organic food options." Canada's [*Organic Products Regulations, 2009*](#) came into force on June 30, 2009.

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, April 17, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0262

Most Recent Reports from FAS/Ottawa:

Report #	Name of Report	Date Submitted
CA13019	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 06	04/03/2013
CA13018	CFIA Consults on Inspection Modernization and Sets the Stage for Future Food Regulations	04/03/2013
CA13016	Grain and Feed Annual	04/02/2013
CA13015	Oilseeds and Products Annual	03/22/2013
CA13014	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 05	03/22/2013
CA13013	Overview of BTB and RCC Roundtable on Food and Consumer Products	03/11/2013
CA13013	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 04	03/01/2013
CA13012	Livestock – Semi-annual	03/01/2013
CA13008	Survey Voluntary – Canadian Consumer Insights	02/08/2013
CA13007	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 03	02/07/2013
CA13004	Grain and Feed Update	01/28/2013
CA13002	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 02	01/24/2013
CA13001	Retail Food Sector Report	01/22/2013
CA12052	Food Processing Ingredients Update	12/28/2012
CA12051	Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Institutional 2012	12/27/2012
CA12050	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/21/2012
CA12049	Export Guide: A Practical Guide	12/21/2012